



NEWS FROM THE SEA ISLAND SUMMIT PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Max Burns, United States Representative

O. Maxie Burns was first elected to Congress November 5, 2002. He was sworn in on January 7, 2003. As a member of the House of Representatives from Georgia's new Twelfth Congressional District, Max serves on the Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Education and the Workforce committees. He was elected freshmen class president by his peers and serves on the Speaker's prescription drug action team. Prior to his election, Max was a professor of Information Systems at Georgia Southern University's College of Business Administration in Statesboro. Max was born in Millen, Georgia in Jenkins County. He grew up and graduated from high school in rural Screven County, where he continues to live and work on his family's beef and timber farm. Max married his wife of thirty years, Lora Dean Black in 1972. They have two adult sons: Andrew, and Nathan. Max is an active member of Jackson Baptist Church in Sylvania, where he has served as Deacon for over fifteen years. Committed to Georgia's youth, Max has been a high school football referee for over twenty years and a youth athletic coach for ten years. He has also been a strong advocate of the Pineland Mental Health center in Statesboro where he has helped to develop a work-return program to aid disabled individuals.

Max was elected to the Screven County Commission in 1993 and served until 1998; he served as Chairman in his 1997-1998 term. Max also served on the CSRA Regional Development Center and is the former Chairman of the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade, and Tourism Region 1 Advisory Council, which covers most of the counties in the Twelfth District.

During his time as an elected official to the Screven County Commission, Screven County developed a comprehensive road improvement program, opened a new senior citizens' center, initiated a new adult and technical education center, built a new athletic complex, developed a modernized plan for the county law enforcement complex, and implemented a comprehensive land-usage plan.

Max received a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering degree from Georgia Tech in 1973. He was the Distinguished Military Graduate of the Class of 1973. Upon graduation, Max served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves. Max was awarded a Masters in Business Information Systems from Georgia State University in 1977, and a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Georgia State University in 1987. Max continued to work full-time, while studying for both of his advanced degrees, serving in information management positions with Oxford Industries and the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Max was a Senior Fulbright Scholar, teaching Corporate Information Management in Sweden in 1993. He also taught in Australia, New Zealand, and Korea. He has also served as a consultant to Gulfstream Aerospace and Grinnell Corporation. Prior to



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coming to Congress he also developed the Southern Suppliers' Network to connect Southeast Georgia's small business suppliers to major manufacturers.